

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ISRAELI-KENYAN RELATIONS

1. ZEEV DOVER, CHIEF OF ISRAELI INTERESTS SECTION IN NAIROBI, LUNCHEONED WITH DCM LINDSTROM AUGUST 20 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE DOVER'S RETURN TO KENYA TWO DAYS EARLIER AFTER HAVING BEEN ON LEAVE IN ISRAEL SINCE JUNE 2. SUBJECTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WHICH WERE DISCUSSED DURING LUNCHEON ARE SUMMARIZED IN FOLLOWING PARAS.

2. ISRAELI-KENYAN MILITARY-INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION. DOVER SAID COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD HAD BEGUN IN EARLY 1976 WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT PRESIDENT AMIN WAS ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAELI INSTALLATIONS IN KENYA. COOPERATION TO DATE HAS CONSISTED OF COMPREHENSIVE EXCHANGES OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND ISRAELI ASSISTANCE TO KENYA TO PREVENT TERRORIST INFILTRATION ACROSS UGANDAN BORDER. THIS COOPERATION WAS ALREADY WELL DEVELOPED WITH MANY ISRAELI MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL PRESENT IN KENYA WELL PRIOR TO HIJACKING OF FRENCH AIRBUS TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT IN LATE JUNE.

3. ISRAELI-KENYAN COOPERATION ON ENTEBBE RESCUE RAID. THANKS TO PRESENCE OF ISRAELI PERSONNEL IN KENYA PER PARA TWO ABOVE, DOVER SAID IT HAD BEEN QUITE EASY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF KENYAN FACILITIES NEEDED TO

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SUPPORT ENTEBBE RESCUE OPERATION. WHILE KENYAN SUPPORT

NOT GENERALLY PLEDGED EXPLICITLY, NECESSARY "ACQUIESCENCES" WERE OBTAINED THANKS TO GOOD PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL OF EACH COUNTRY.

4. ISRAELI AID TO KENYA. ASIDE FROM MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANCE ALREADY BEING PROVIDED, DOVER BELIEVED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT NOW BE WILLING TO OFFER ADDITIONAL MILITARY RELATED ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TOTAL COST WOULD BE MODEST. HE THOUGHT THAT IMPROVED SEA COAST SURVEILLANCE MIGHT BE ONE SUCH AREA WHERE ISRAEL COULD PROVIDE USEFUL ASSISTANCE NOT BEING PROVIDED TO KENYA BY OTHER COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT, IN LINE WITH RECENT GOI REAPPRAISAL OF POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA, GOI WOULD NOW BE PREPARED TO APPROVE RELEASE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND INVESTMENT GUARANTEES FOR PRIVATE ISRAELI INVESTMENTS IN KENYA.

5. POSSIBLE ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT OF KENYA. DOVER SAID THAT JUST BEFORE HIS RETURN TO ISRAEL ON LEAVE, KENYAN ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BABU WOOD HAD ASKED HIM POINTEDLY WHETHER ISRAEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO HELP KENYA MILITARILY IN EVENT OF ATTACK BY UGANDA. WOOD SAID THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA "WOULD COUNT" ON FAVORABLE ISRAELI RESPONSE IF HE WERE TO REQUEST SUCH HELP. DOVER ASKED WHETHER WOOD WAS SPEAKING OFFICIALLY FOR GOK. WOOD REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY. WHEN DCM ASKED DOVER WHAT ISRAEL WOULD DO IF KENYA WERE ATTACKED BY UGANDA AND IF KENYATTA WERE INDEED TO REQUEST ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT (E.G., ISRAELI AIR FORCE PLANES OR COMMANDOS), DOVER REPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD REPORTED ASSISTANT MINISTER WOOD'S REMARKS TO FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON, NO GOI DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS TO HOW TO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE KENYA REQUEST OF THIS NATURE. HE THOUGHT THAT, AS IN CASE OF ENTEBBE RESCUE RAID, ISRAELI CABINET DECISION WOULD DEFINITELY BE REQUIRED. SUCH A DECISION WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE INTO CONSIDRATION PARTICULARS OF KENYA REQUEST AND SITUATION GIVING RISE TO IT.

6. POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF ISRAELI-KENYAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SINCE DOVER HAD RETURNED TO KENYA ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, HE HAD NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GET "FEEL" FOR ATTITUDES OF KEY GOK OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT. DCM, WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT
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HE HAD ENGAGED IN NO EXPLICIT DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH KENYANS, OPINED THAT DOVER WOULD PROBABLY FIND THAT GOK ATTITUDES HAD SHIFTED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE HIS DEPARTURE FOR ISRAEL IN EARLY JUNE, ONE MONTH BEFORE ENTEBBE RAID. DCM SUGGESTED THAT AMIN'S THREATS TO ATTACK KENYA HAD MADE GOK OFFICIALS REALIZE WHEN COUNTRIES COULD BE COUNTED ON IN CRUNCH SITUATION AND THAT THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES KENYA HAD BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO SUPPORTING IN U. N. AND

OTHER FORA HAD AT BEST SAT ON FENCE AND AT WORST TENDED TO SUPPORT AMIN IN KENYAN-UGANDAN DISPUTE. IT MIGHT WELL, THEREFORE, BE POSSIBLE THAT GOK OFFICIALS WOULD NOW EVALUATE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL PRIMARILY ON BASIS OF DIRECT BILATERAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED AND WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE REGARD FOR PROBABLE ADVERSE REACTIONS OF MOST OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. DCM ALSO MENTIONED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI AND PERMANENT SECRETARY KIBINGE, BOTH OF WHOM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH KENYA'S IMAGE WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, HAD CHANGED MANY OF THEIR ATTITUDES IN THIS REGARD DURING UGANDAN CRISIS. POSSIBLY THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE OPPOSED TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

7. POSSIBLE U.S.-ISRAELI COOPERATION RE KENYA. DOVER RAISED THIS SUBJECT AND, WITHOUT EXPLAINING EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT IN MORE DETAIL WITH DCM AT FUTURE MEETING. DCM CAUTIONED THAT, WHILE SOME EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RELATIONS WITH KENYA COULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO ISRAEL AND U.S. AND HELPFUL TO KENYA AS WELL, WE HAVE FOUND IT GENERALLY DESIRABLE TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF DONOR-COUNTRY "COLLUSION" WHEN DEALING WITH SENSITIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS KENYA.
MARSHALL

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